

PREVALENCE AND PATTERNS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG MARRIED ADULTS IN ILORIN METROPOLIS, KWARASTATE

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Abstract

Domestic violence at home has been a source of concern among couples which it effects on families and the society are enormous. In view of this, this study investigated the prevalence and patterns of domestic violence among married adults in Ilorin, Kwara State. Descriptive survey design was adopted for this study and simple random sampling technique was adopted to draw a total sample of 145 married adults from Ilorin metropolis. The instrument used in collecting data for this study was a questionnaire entitled "Questionnaire on Prevalence and Patterns of Domestic Violence (QPPDV)". The instrument was validated and 0.82 was obtained for its test re-test reliability. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that domestic violence is not prevalent among married adults in Ilorin metropolis and the patterns of domestic violence include physical abuse, economical/financial abuse and verbal abuse among others. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that comprehensive and extensive premarital counselling should be given to intending couples on how to manage their marital relationship.

Key Words: Prevalence; Patterns; Domestic Violence; Married Adults; Culture

Introduction

Domestic abuse, also known as domestic violence or intimate partner violence can be refers to as partner behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power or control over an intimate partner which could be physical, economical, sexual, psychological or threat that influence another person. Domestic violence is any act of physical, sexual or psychological abuse, or the threat of such abuse, inflicted against a woman by a person intimately connected to her through marriage, family relation, or acquaintanceship. It is universal and has its root in the socio-cultural set up of the society (Khan & Ratele, 2020). Domestic violence is a widespread problem throughout the developed and developing world and makes serious impact on quality of human life and broader development (Melville & McDowell, 2018). Violence against women is the manifestation of a historically unequal power relationship between men and women. It is a conditioned response

and is not natural or born of biological determinism. In the olden days, violence against women was as a result to the prevalent atmosphere of ignorance and feudalism (Matud, 2018). Today violence against women is an uncontrollable phenomenon, which is a direct result of the rapid urbanization, industrialization and structural adjustment programmes which are changing the socio-economic scenario of our country. In the Nigerian society, the problem of violence against women in the family is not new.

Family is supposed to be the first agency, which provides not only emotional and material support to its members but also serves as basic source of personal satisfaction, socialization and social control. However, due to patriarchal nature of the Nigerian family system, the family structure does not give equal importance to all members as role, power and status are strictly determined by age and gender. Women in Nigeria through the ages have been victimized, humiliated, tortured and exploited. There have been incidents of murder rape, abduction and torture from time immemorial. In spite of such a dark past, violence against women in Nigeria has only received little attention. More so, much attempt has not been made to find out the reason why such a socially relevant theme has been left neglected and ignored.

The problem of domestic violence in Nigeria stems from a cultural bias against women (Ishola, 2016). Women who challenge their husband's right to control their behavior or who ask for household money or step out of the house without permission may face violence. This process leads men to believe their notion of masculinity and manhood, which is reflected to the degree by which they control their wives. In Nigeria, despite a women goddess been worshipped in the image of Orisha within the Yoruba cultural group, it is still disheartening to observe the brutal reality of women's existence (James, 2018). Women in many Nigerian societies have been the victims of humiliation, torture and exploitation from the time immemorial irrespective of the fact that they are also worshipped by different tribal groups (Umukoro & Egbai, 2016; Anweting & Ogar, 2018).

Domestic violence is the intentional and persistent abuse of anyone in the home in a way that causes pain, distress or injury. It refers to any abusive treatment of one family member by another, thus violating the law of basic human rights. It includes battering of intimate partners and others, sexual abuse of children, marital rape and traditional practices that are harmful to women. The definition of domestic violence has included “physical abuse” “sexual abuse” and “economic abuse”. Makwana (2009) defined violence as “the overtly threatened or overtly accomplished application of force which result in the injury or destruction of persons or their reputation”. Thus, rape, kidnapping, murder, wife battering, sexual abuse, eve teasing are all examples of violence against women. Domestic violence is any act of physical, sexual or psychological abuse, or the threat of such abuse, inflicted against a woman by a person intimately connected to her through marriage, family relation, or acquaintanceship. It is universal and has its root in the socio-cultural set up of the society (Khan & Ratele, 2020). The frequent understanding of domestic violence against women is that it is limited to physical harm perpetrated on adult women within a marital relationship.

Violence at home is a shocking connotation because “home” is supposed to be the safest place for anyone. Spine chilling is the fact that for many women and children, this home is a place where they face gore terror and violence. It is a shame on humans that this violence at home is perpetrated by no one else but their own close family members. Irrespective of a country's culture, class, religion, modernization, advancement and development, domestic violence against women and children is widely prevalent. Global dimensions of domestic violence are quite alarming. No society can claim to be free of such violence, there is variation only in the patterns and trends of the regions. Studies estimate that from country to country, 10 to 15 per cent of women have experienced physical violence by intimate partner or other close family member (Campo, 2015). Because of inconsistency in defining domestic violence, it is difficult to get the actual violence rate.

Domestic violence is also a universal family problem with far reaching consequences on family building, cohesion and peaceful coexistence. It is a menace that has devastating effects on individual victims, their children, and the community at large. In fact, there is growing evidence that violence within the family influences other social problems such as children deviance substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, marital insatiability, infidelity increased divorce rate, single parenthood, unhealthy parent child relationship among others. Additionally, violence within the family especially against women and children is one of the most prevalent of human right abuses in the world. It is a form of abuse that is deeply rooted in power of discrimination and culturally defined inequality between men and women. Domestic violence is prevalent among women and girls in Nigeria. It is synonymous with close partner violence, family violence, beating, domestic abuse or spousal abuse. More complicating is the reality that the social context of violence against women in Nigeria is related to traditional African patriarchal societies, which defines the gendered power structure (Rydström, 2018; Ajayi & Airewele, 2018).

Domestic violence is also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence, and intimate partner violence (IPV) in the literature. It is a pattern of abusive behaviours that are experienced by partners in intimate relationship such as marriage. This pattern of abusive behaviours is exhibited in various ways, including physical abuse or threats (such as hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing objects); sexual abuse; emotional abuse; verbal controlling or domineering; intimidation; stalking; passive/covert abuse (e.g. neglect); and economic deprivation (Siemieniuk et al., 2010). To illustrate: in marriage in many societies, a woman surrenders to her husband's exclusive sexual rights and obedience. Traditionally, in Nigeria, as in many other African countries, the beating of wives and children is widely sanctioned as a form of discipline (Ampofo & Prah, 2009; Qayum & Ray, 2010). Consequently, by beating their children, parents believe that they are instilling discipline in them, much the same way as husbands beat their wives—who are also regarded as children and as such prone to indiscipline. The society is basically patriarchal, and women's place within the scheme is absolutely subordinate.

Intimate partner violence functions as a means of enforcing conformity with the role of a woman within customary society. It does not matter if the woman is economically dependent or not; her position, like that of the children, is subordinate (Katembo, 2015). Several women are believed to have been subjected to physical, sexual, and psychological violence carried out primarily by husbands, partners, and fathers (Ajayi & Airewele, 2018; Mahserjian, 2016), while some girls are often forced into early marriages and are at risk of punishment if they attempt to escape from their husbands. More pathetic is the revelation of gross underreporting and no documentation of domestic violence due to cultural factors (Nittis et al., 2013).

Culture has been identified by Ampofo and Prah (2009); Arisukwu et al. (2019) as a tool used in justifying domestic violence against women through claims that such practices are part of “culture”. Yet, culture is not static or homogeneous—it evolves and can change. However, women not only suffer from negative aspects of culture but also benefit from it (U.N, 2007; Ihalainen et al., 2020; Lngutia, et al., 2020). Other cultural factors include gender-specific socialization, cultural definitions of appropriate sex roles, expectations of roles within relationships, belief in the inherent superiority of males, values that give men proprietary rights over women and girls, notion of the family as the private sphere and under male control, customs of marriage (bride price/dowry), and acceptability of violence as a means to resolve conflict. Hence, cultural factors have been considered as very important to the prevalence of domestic violence in a society (Naved & Persson, 2005; Igbolekwu et al., 2019).

Furthermore, high level of poverty and socio-economic challenges in Nigeria undoubtedly contribute in no small measure to the prevalence of domestic violence (Odumakin, 2013). Consequent upon the aforementioned cultural and economic assets, most rural women in Nigeria are victims of domestic violence. Although this inimical practice may be considered to be as old as humanity, its prevalence tends to be increasing with modernization. This implies that education and other indicators of contemporary societies may not have influenced the practice of domestic violence (Ajayi & Airewele, 2018). In Nigeria, a study carried out by Adebayo and Kolawole (2013) showed that 65% of the women in the study in Nigeria hold that a man is justified to beat his wife. In parts of the Third World generally and in West Africa in particular, domestic violence is prevalent and reportedly justified and condoned in some cultures. For instance, 56% of Indian women surveyed by an agency justified wife beating on grounds like bad cook, disrespect to in-laws, producing more girls, leaving home without informing the husband, among others. Statistics show, that 25% of women in Dakar and Kaolag in Senegal are subjected to physical violence from their partners and that very few admit they are beaten while 60% of domestic violence victims turn to a family member, in three-quarter of the cases they are told to keep quiet and endure the beatings. The report also reveals that a law passed in the Senegalese penal code punishing domestic violence with prison sentences and fines is poorly enforced due to religious and cultural resistance. In Ghana, spousal assaults top the list of domestic violence (Adebayo & Kolawole, 2013).

Furthermore, most advocacy groups for domestic violence against women in rural areas are not functional, and the functional ones seem not to utilize the appropriate and intentional mechanism to get through to the people. The advocacy approach used in the urban areas cannot be replicated in the rural areas without certain adjustments, which must incorporate their local realities. This could account for one of the reasons behind the increased prevalence of domestic violence among women. This world-wide suffering of women and children in their own “Homes” will not be eased until families, NGOs, social institutions and government at large address the issue directly. Women and children have right to protection even in their homes. Domestic violence needs to be recognized as a “crime” by the law enforcement authority and judicial system and the perpetrator must be punished.

Reports from various countries including Nigeria propose that patterns of violence account for a significant number of deaths by murdering among women. According to World Report on domestic violence in 2002, statistics from countries like Australia, Canada, United States of America, Israel and South Asia shows that 30-70% of female murder victims were killed by their husband or boyfriends. According to a study by Adebayo and Kolawole (2013), the issue of domestic violence has continued to prosper in a country like Nigeria because many of such are unreported and unchallenged. Therefore, this has continued to have profound effect on women. Marriage as a consequence of family which brings husband and wife to live together as a family poses a greater risk of violence to women because incident of domestic violence has primarily been taking place within the home and among member of a particular household.

The incidence of domestic violence has continued to be a social problem but often time been treated as a private matter by some cultures. Report has shown that victims of domestic violence in a culture such as that of Nigeria often find it difficult to report incidence of domestic violence (Oladepo et al., 2011; Adebayo & Kolawole 2013). Throughout the world, violence is unacceptable and no one either man or woman deserve to be beaten, sexually abused or made to suffer emotionally. However, the third world countries especially Nigeria through some cultural practice has created an enabling environment, where the society is tolerant of the perpetrator and is intolerant of the victim. This simply underlines why domestic violence is a sensitive issue and therefore why little information is available statistical wise. Consequently, in Nigeria, many women are viciously treated by their intimate partners which in some cases lead to death of such women. According to a study by Yusuf et al., (2011) which examined physical violence among intimate partners in Nigeria, the study revealed that many partners has caused the death of their partners as a result of series of violence at home.

Domestic violence has eaten deep in to the fabric of the society and it has taken different forms and affect all social groups and can consist of physical, sexual and psychological abuse. This study is necessitated because of available evidence Yusuf and Collins (2014) suggest that the level of domestic violence against women in Nigeria is heightened by the day with two out of every three women in certain

communities experiencing violence in the family. Many of the reports above prove that many women do not report the abuse as they are ashamed that their marriages are not working and for most women in Nigeria, divorce is not an option, so they prefer to suffer in silence. While majority of the above studies focused on an array of issues bothering on domestic violence, physical violence against women (Yusuf, et al., 2011); on gender-based violence (Oladepo et al., 2011); Adebayo and Kolawole (2013) focused on relationship between violence and death of women. It is important to note that none of the studies is directly looking at the prevalence and patterns of domestic violence among married adults. Therefore, it is against this backdrop that this present study investigated prevalence and patterns of domestic violence among married adults in Ilorin metropolis. The main purpose of the study is to investigate the prevalence and patterns of domestic violence among married adults in Ilorin metropolis. The study also seeks to examine the influence of age, level of education and years in marriage on the respondents' view.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised for the study:

1. What are the prevalence of domestic violence among married adults in Ilorin metropolis?
2. What are the patterns of domestic violence among married adults in Ilorin metropolis?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were postulated in this study:

1. There is no significant difference in the prevalence of domestic violence among married adults based on age.
2. There is no significant difference in the patterns of domestic violence among married adults based on age.
3. There is no significant difference in the prevalence of domestic violence among married adults based on level of education
4. There is no significant difference in the patterns of domestic violence among married adults based on level of education.
5. There is no significant difference in the prevalence of domestic violence among married adults based on length of years in marriage.
6. There is no significant difference in the patterns of domestic violence based on length of years in marriage.

Methodology

The research design adopted for the study was descriptive survey. This design is considered apt because it enables the researcher to generate data through the standardized collection procedures based on highly structured research instrument(s) and well-defined study concepts and related variables. The target population in this research are the married adults in Ilorin metropolis kwara state.

The targeted population includes the following: Ilorin south: Fufu and Gambari, Asa LG: Eyenkorin and Afon, Ilorin West: Adewole and Baboko. Since the research cannot cover all in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara state, the sample size for this study were 3 (three) local governments from the population, whereby 50 respondents were randomly selected from each local government, summing up to 150 married adults being selected. After determining the sample size of this study, the researcher used simple random sampling technique to ensure that each member of the target population has equal and independent chance of being chosen as respondent for the study. The study utilized a questionnaire, for data collection. A well-constructed and self-developed questionnaire titled “Questionnaire on the Prevalence and Patterns of Domestic Violence among Married Adults” was used to get the desired data from the married adults. The questionnaire was divided into three sections (A, B, and C). Section A was for collection of information on personal data or demographic data of the respondents section B was on questions on prevalence of domestic violence while section C consists of questions on patterns of domestic violence that elicit responses from the respondents using a two way response YES/NO scale and a four - point Likert scale types rating scale SA - Strongly Agree, A - Agree, D - Disagree, SD - Strongly Disagree. To establish the validity of the instrument, the researcher sought assistance of five experts in counselling and sociology for vetting and useful suggestions and necessary correction were made. The reliability of the instrument was determined by test re-test reliability method. The instrument was given to a sample of twenty (20) selected married adults outside the sample scope but within the same geographical location within the interval of two weeks. A coefficient of 0.82 was obtained. Responses from the questionnaire were analyzed using descriptive inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics of percentages was used in analyzing demographic variables and the research questions were analyzed with mean and rank order while the inferential statistics of ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) was used to test the stated hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

Research Question One: *What are the prevalence of domestic violence among married adults in Ilorin, metropolis?*

Table 2: Mean and Rank Order on Prevalence of Domestic Violence among Married Adults

S/N	In my opinion I believe that:	Mean	Rank
4	Most perpetrators of domestic violence are carried out at home	1.88	1 st
7	Most domestic violence are not reported because of the stigmatization	1.83	2 nd
5	Perpetrators of domestic violence are usually men against women	1.82	3 rd
10	Domestic violence is rampant in our society because of the social-cultural beliefs	1.80	4 th
9	Gender inequality is seen as a basis for domestic violence against women	1.79	5 th
6	Domestic violence is a social problem	1.79	6 th
3	Only fewer married adults are free from domestic violence	1.74	7 th
2	The numbers of domestic violence in Ilorin is increasing annually	1.67	8 th
8	Most married adults are victims of domestic violence	1.66	9 th
1	Domestic violence is rampant in Ilorin metropolis	1.66	9 th

(Source: Author's Field work, 2023)

Table 2 presents the prevalence of domestic violence among married adults. Ranked 1st, 2nd and 3rd are items 4, 7 and 5 with mean scores of 1.88, 1.83 and 1.82 respectively and it state that; Most perpetrators of domestic violence are carried out at home, Most domestic violence are not reported because of the stigmatization and Perpetrators of domestic violence are usually men against women. Also, ranked 8th and 9th are items 2, 8 and 1 with mean scores of 1.67 and 1.66 and 1.66 respectively and it state that; The numbers of domestic violence in Ilorin is increasing annually, Most married adults are victims of domestic violence and Domestic violence is rampant in Ilorin metropolis. The table shows that all the items have mean scores less than mid-cutoff point of 2.50 (average point) regardless of ranking. This indicates that the respondents attested that domestic violence is not prevalent among married adults Ilorin metropolis as stated in the items statement.

Research Questions Two: *What are the patterns of domestic violence among married adults in Ilorin metropolis?*

Table 3: Mean and Rank Order on Patterns of Domestic Violence among Married Adults

S/N	In my own view, patterns of domestic violence include	Mean	Rank
1	Physical abuse	3.54	1 st
3	Economical/ Financial abuse	3.21	2 nd
4	Verbal abuse	3.17	3 rd
2	Psychological abuse	3.07	4 th
5	Sexual abuse	2.78	5 th

(Source: Author's Field work, 2023)

Table 3 presents the patterns of domestic violence among married adults. Ranked 1st, 2nd and 3rd are items 1, 3 and 4 and it state that; patterns of domestic violence include physical abuse, economical/financial abuse and verbal abuse respectively. The table shows that all the items have mean score greater than 2.50 (average points) regardless of order of ranking. This shows that all the items indicate mode of patterns of domestic violence among married adults as attested to in the statement by the respondents.

Hypotheses One: *There is no significant difference in the prevalence of domestic violence among married adults based on age.*

Table 4: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the Respondents' Expression on Prevalence of Domestic Violence among Married Adults Based on Age

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Squares	Cal. F-Value	Crit. F-Value	p-value
Between Groups	10.390	2	5.195	2.35	3.00	.099
Within Groups	313.362	142	2.207			
Total	323.752	144				

(Source: Author's Field work, 2023)

Table 4 indicates that the calculated f-ratio of 2.35 is less than critical f-ratio of 3.00. with the corresponding p-value of .099 which is higher than 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, hypothesis one which states that there is no significance difference in the prevalence of domestic violence among married adults based on age is not rejected.

Hypothesis Two: *There is no significant difference in the patterns of domestic violence among married adults based on age.*

Table 5: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the Respondents' Expression on Patterns of Domestic Violence among Married Adults Based on Age

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	Cal. F-Value	Crit. F-Value	p-value
Between Groups	4.425	2	2.213	0.42	3.00	.660
Within Groups	753.617	142	5.307			
Total	758.041	144				

(Source: Author's Field work, 2023)

Table 5 indicates that the calculated f-ratio of 0.42 is less than critical f-ratio of 3.00. with the corresponding p-value of .660 which is higher than 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, hypothesis two which states that there is no significance difference in the patterns of domestic violence among married adults based on age is not rejected.

Hypothesis Three: *There is no significant difference in the prevalence of domestic violence among married adults based on level of education.*

Table 6: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the Respondents' Expression on Prevalence of Domestic Violence among Married Adults Based on Level of Education

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	Cal. F-Value	Crit. F-Value	p-value
Between Groups	12.203	5	2.441	1.08	2.21	.374
Within Groups	311.549	139	2.241			
Total	323.752	144				

(Source: Author's Field work, 2023)

Table 6 indicates that the calculated f-ratio of 1.08 is less than critical f-ratio of 2.21. with the corresponding p-value of .374 which is higher than 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, hypothesis three which states that there is no significance difference in the prevalence of domestic violence among married adults based on level of education is not rejected.

Hypothesis Four: *There is no significant difference in the patterns of domestic violence among married adults based on level of education.*

Table 7: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the Respondents' Expression on Patterns of Domestic Violence among Married Adults Based on Level of Education

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	Cal. F-Value	Crit. F-Value	p-value
Between Groups	0.849	5	0.170	0.02	2.21	.341
Within Groups	757.192	139	5.447			
Total	758.041	144				

(Source: Author's Field work, 2023)

Table 7 indicates that the calculated f-ratio of 0.02 is less than critical f-ratio of 2.21 with the corresponding p-value of .341 which is higher than 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, hypothesis four which states that there is no significance difference in the patterns of domestic violence among married adults based on level of education is not rejected.

Hypothesis Five: *There is significant difference in the prevalence of domestic violence among married adults based on length of years in marriage.*

Table 8: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the Respondents' Expression on Prevalence of Domestic Violence among Married Adults Based on Length of Years in Marriage

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	Cal. F-Value	Crit. F-Value	p-value
Between Groups	34.915	2	17.458	1.68	3.00	.172
Within Groups	289.847	143	2.027			
Total	323.752	144				

(Source: Author's Field work, 2023)

Table 8 indicates that the calculated f-ratio of 1.68 is less than critical f-ratio of 3.00 with the corresponding p-value of .172 which is higher than 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, hypothesis five which states that there is no significance difference in the prevalence of domestic violence among married adults based on length of years in marriage is not rejected.

Hypothesis Six: *There is no significant difference in the patterns of domestic violence among married adults based on length of years in marriage.*

Table 9: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the Respondents' Expression on Patterns of Domestic Violence among Married Adults Based on Length of Years in Marriage

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	Cal. F-Value	Crit. F-Value	p-value
Between Groups	36.599	2	18.300	1.02	3.00	.052
Within Groups	721.452	139	5.190			
Total	758.041	144				

(Source: Author's Field work, 2023)

Table 9 indicates that the calculated f-ratio of 1.02 is less than critical f-ratio of 3.00 with the corresponding p-value of .052 which is higher than 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, hypothesis four which states that there is no significance difference in the patterns of domestic violence among married adults based on length of years in marriage is not rejected.

Discussion of Findings

The study revealed that domestic violence is not prevalent among married adults in Ilorin metropolis. This could be that married adults are religiously inclined and try to understand and tolerate each other. The finding of this study negates the opinion poll findings (2019) which found that the opinion of Nigerians on the prevalence of domestic violence in the country revealed that a vast majority of (82 percent) of respondents believe that domestic violence is prevalent in Nigeria and this assertion cuts across gender, geo-political zones and age-groups.

Also, the finding revealed that the patterns of domestic violence include physical abuse, economical/financial abuse and verbal abuse among others. The result was supported by Khan and Ratele (2020) who found that domestic violence is any act of physical, sexual or psychological abuse, or the threat of such abuse, inflicted against a woman by a person intimately connected to her through marriage, family relation, or acquaintanceship. It is universal and has its root in the socio-cultural set up of the society.

Another finding revealed that there was no significant difference in the prevalence of domestic violence on the basis of age. This shows that age does not have significant difference among the respondents on the prevalence of domestic violence. This might be due to domestic violence is not limited to a particular age group. The finding negates the findings of Moffitt and Caspi (1999) who found significant difference based on age. They stressed further that woman who had children at early age of 21 years were more like to be victims of intimate partner violence as women who are not mothers at that age.

Findings also revealed that there was no significant different in the patterns of domestic violence on the basis of age. This indicated that age difference between

the respondents have no significant difference on the patterns of domestic violence. This was supported by Gillum (2019) who found that the patterns of domestic abuse have no gender basis regardless of victims of perpetrators.

Another finding revealed that there was no significant difference in the prevalence of domestic violence based on level of education. This shows that that a partner level of education would not have any significant impact on the prevalence of domestic among married adults. This was supported by Ajayi and Airewele (2018) whose study found the inimical practice of domestic violence is as old as humanity, its prevalence tends to be increasing with modernization. This implies that education and other indicators of contemporary societies may not have influenced the practice of domestic violence.

Findings also revealed that there was no significant difference in the patterns of domestic violence among married adults based on level of education. This means that respondents were not different in their expression based on level of education on the patterns of domestic violence. This might be due to the fact that domestic violence those not limit to a particular educational background. This was in line with Rapp et al. (2012) explored the association between gap in spousal education and domestic violence in India and Bangladesh found that wives with higher education than their husband were less likely to experience less severe domestic violence as compared to equal or low educated spouses. More so, highly educated spouses revealed the lowest likelihood of experiencing domestic violence.

Another finding revealed that there was no significant difference in the prevalence of domestic violence on the basis of length of years in marriage. The finding was negated by Almosaed and Alazab (2015) whose study found significant differences among wives who are married for less than 5 years and more than 10 years were more likely to adapt to violence marriage than those two has been married for few years.

Findings also revealed that there was no significant difference in the patterns of domestic violence among married adults based on length of years in marriage. This means that patterns of domestic violence have no significant difference as regards years in marriage. This negate Ajayi and Airewele (2018) who study found that women are believed to have been subjected to physical, sexual, and psychological violence carried out primarily by husbands, partners, and fathers while some girls are often forced into early marriages and are at risk of punishment if they attempt to escape from their husbands.

Conclusion

The study found that domestic violence is not prevalent among married adults Ilorin metropolis and the patterns of domestic violence include physical abuse, economical/financial abuse and verbal abuse among others. Also, there was no significant difference in the prevalence of domestic violence among married adults based on age, level of education and length of years in marriage and no

significant difference was observed in the patterns of domestic violence among married adults based on age, level of education and length of years in marriage.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, it was recommended that:

- Comprehensive and extensive premarital counselling should be given to intending couples on how to manage their marital relationship.
- Workshop and seminar, where trained counsellors would assist in propagating the anti- domestic violence campaign, should be organized.
- Young couples going into marriage should be educated and guided on the ways to avoid violence in marriage.
- There should be various advocacy against domestic violence through social Media and broadcast in schools both secondary and higher learning.
- Government should establish and fund counselling centres at the community, by bringing counselling closer to the people especially at local level and employ professional counsellors to help victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.

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